

all the interstices flat and broad, and all very sparingly clothed with short, suberect whitish scales, and by the anterior tibia being armed with a long spine near the apex without, and with two diverging spines in front.

According to Schönherr, *Tr. spinimanus* (which is described by Gyllenhal apparently from a native insect\*) is synonymous with *Tr. scaber* (*scabriculus* of Linn. †), but my foreign specimens of *Tr. spinimanus* from Germar himself are very different from *scabriculus* of Linn., and very distinct.

Although I have taken many specimens of *Tr. alternans* in different localities, yet I never met with a specimen of *Tr. spinimanus*; it appears to be very rare; specimens in the cabinet of Mr. Waterhouse were found I think near Cromer, Norfolk, and I am indebted to him for a specimen; I have seen specimens in the cabinet of Mr. Stephens.

XXVI.—*Comparison of the Periods of Flowering of certain Plants in the early Spring of 1846, in the Botanic Garden of Belfast and the Jardin des Plantes at Paris.* By WILLIAM THOMPSON, Esq. (Belfast).

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,

Although fully sensible that the following very brief communication on a highly interesting subject is almost too trivial for publication in the 'Annals,' I send it forward under the impression that possibly it may be considered worth the little space that it will occupy.

Belfast, Feb. 27, 1847.

WM. THOMPSON.

A PAPER by M. Ch. Martins appeared in the number of 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' for April last, on the subject of the extraordinary temperature of the winter of 1846, and its influence on the flowering of plants. Lists of the species which flowered in the Botanic Garden of Paris at certain periods of that season being given, they suggested to me the desirability of drawing up similar lists respecting the Botanic Garden at Belfast. These compared with the others exhibit some interesting results, although the number of species noted down in the latter locality falls far short of what could be wished. The information respecting them was derived from Mr. D. Ferguson, the able curator of the Garden—who also supplied the few notes respecting Glasgow.

[It was not until after this communication was read before the

\* Gyll. Ins. Succ. iv. p. 614.

† Syn. Ins. vii. p. 117.

Meeting of the British Association at Southampton in September last, that I was aware of a paper to the same effect respecting Brussels having been read by M. Quetelet before the Academy of Sciences of that capital, on the 7th of February 1846. A notice of it appeared in the 'L'Institut' Journal of August 12 (No. 658. p. 272). Very few plants are there named, and such in my lists as are of the same species have been noticed in connection with them.]

*Plants which flower every winter in the Botanic Garden at Belfast and its neighbourhood.*

\**Linaria Cymbalaria.*

<sup>1</sup> \**Senecio vulgaris.*

†*Arabis alpina.* Not checked by severe weather; flowers when snow is on the ground.

†*Ulex europæus.*

<sup>1</sup> †*Bellis perennis.*

<sup>1</sup> †*Viola tricolor.*

†*Tussilago Petasites* †.

<sup>2</sup> †*Cydonia (Pyrus) japonica.*

<sup>2</sup> †*Cynoglossum Omphalodes.*

\**Capsella Bursa-pastoris.* Flowers generally in mild winters—flowers four times in the year.

†*Rhododendron dauricum.* Generally flowers about Christmas.

†*Ficaria ranunculoides.* In flower at mid-winter 1845–46; always in flower here mid-February §.

*Plants in flower at end of January 1846.*

||*Helleborus fœtidus.* } Not extraordinarily early for them.

||*Daphne Mezereon.* }

||*Kerria (Corchorus) japonica.* Always in flower first or second week of February.

*Prunus sinensis.* Covered with flowers end of January; two or three weeks earlier than usual.

†*Mahonia aquifolium.*

||*Cornus mas* ¶.

*Prunus Lauro-cerasus.* Commenced flowering in profusion, end of January.

\* Flowering March 20–22 at Fontainbleau.

† Flowering February 28 in Jard. des Plantes, Paris.

<sup>1</sup> In the extraordinary mild winter of 1845–46 did not cease to flower at Brussels.

<sup>2</sup> Commenced flowering from the 20th to the end of January at Brussels.

† Flowers about Glasgow commonly at the end of March or by the 1st of April.

§ Sometimes the end of March or 1st of April before it flowers about Glasgow.

|| Flowering February 18 in Jard. des Plantes, Paris.

¶ Commonly at Glasgow early in February.

Plants in flower at 1st of February 1846.

- † *Hepatica triloba*. Generally in flower mid-February.  
*Saxifraga oppositifolia*. Three weeks earlier than usual.
- † [ *— crassifolia*. } Always flower in February; not particu-  
   *— cordifolia*. } larly remarked this year. ]
- † *Hyoscyamus Scopolia*. Generally flowers 1st of February.  
 † *Andromeda calyculata*. Generally in full flower 1st of March.
- 
- † *Erica herbacea* \*\*. Flowered fully, early in February—two to three weeks earlier than usual.
- || Chinese Roses. Showed flowers in their spring growth end of February—shoots 12 to 18 inches long when cut down by frost on the 18th of March.  
*Rhododendron arboreum* (hybrids of). Commenced flowering about 1st of March.
- || *Syringa vulgaris* (purple and white flowering). Exhibited their spikes, some of which were in flower early in March.  
*Fuchsia discolor* and its varieties partially in flower early in March.  
*Lonicera tatarica*. In full flower early in March.
- 
- || *Primula sinensis*. Not tried out of doors in Belfast Botanic Garden.

When at Springvale, on the eastern coast of the county of Down, on the 26th Feb. 1846, I remarked a horse-chestnut tree (*Æsculus Hippocastanum*) of about thirty years' growth with green woody shoots fully three inches in length on its lower branches, and flower-buds developed to half that extent. The article commented on informs us, that on the 28th Feb. the large horse-chestnut tree ("Marronnier") of the Tuileries, Paris, bore on its under branches a great number of perfect blossom-buds, and the leaves were expanded to the extent of five centimetres; the upper branches were not so far advanced (p. 229).

On the same day at Springvale, the May-flower (*Caltha palustris*) exhibited flower-buds in such a state of forwardness, that another week of such weather would develope the full flower.

Meteorological tables of the temperature of many winters compared with that of 1845-46 at Paris and Brussels are given in the articles referred to; but, in a communication on the whole so brief as the present one, it may be sufficient to notice the few salient points of that winter at Belfast.

Dec. 1845. The temperature of the month of December has frequently of late years exceeded that of 1845.

† Flowering February 28 in Jard. des Plantes, Paris.

|| Flowering February 18 in Jard. des Plantes, Paris.

\*\* Did not usually flower about Glasgow before the middle of March.

Jan. 1846. The temperature of this month was higher by 3° than that of January in any of the many years referred to.

Feb. 1846. The temperature was as high in February 1827 as in this month, and was within 1° of being as high in 1826 and 1829.

The chief feature of the winter was therefore in the high temperature of the month of January, and again, of that and February combined; the difference between the mean of the two months being less than 1°. A check to the rapidly advancing vegetation was given on the 18th of March, upon the night of which and the following, the thermometer at the Botanic Garden, Belfast, fell to 21° Fahrenheit.

XXVII.—*Notice of a new species of Dawsonia.* By ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.L.S. &c.\*

[With a Plate.]

No one can take the most cursory glance at the subject of the present notice without being satisfied that it is distinct from the only other described species, *Dawsonia polytrichioides* of Hooker; and yet it is extremely difficult to draw up such a character as shall distinguish it on paper, if we except the much larger size. The latter feature however is so decided, that practically there can be no hesitation in pronouncing between the two species.

The single specimen which I possess of the new species, which I propose to name *Dawsonia superba*, was sent to me from Australia a few years ago by my friend Augustus Erskine, Esq., Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General in that country.

In the same parcel were some New Zealand plants, but from those with which the *Dawsonia* was associated in the collection, I have little doubt that it, as well as the previously known species, is an Australian plant. My specimen is fully fourteen inches high, whereas the tallest of those of *D. polytrichioides*, as described both by Dr. Robert Brown and Sir W. J. Hooker, do not exceed four inches, including the seta. The *leaves* are an inch in length (nearly three times longer than in *D. polytrichioides*), linear-subulate, less rigid than in the last-named species, and spreading in a more lax manner, spinuloso-dentate, but only toothed at the back of the nerve near the apex. At the lower extremity the very wide membranaceous sheath is of a fine purplish pink colour. *Seta* three-fourths of an inch in length. *Capsule* with the operculum, resembling that of *D. polytrichioides*, but twice as large.

*Dawsonia superba*; procera, foliis uncialibus, rigidiusculis, sublaxe patentibus. Plate XII.

*Hab.* Australia.

\* Read before the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, March 11, 1847.